

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SULFUR IN MAY 2005

During the month, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 773,000 metric tons, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. May production was 2% higher than that of April 2005 and 3% lower than that of May 2004. Shipments were slightly higher than those of April 2005. Producers' ending stocks for May 2005 were 178,000 tons.

Import and export data for May 2005 were not available at the time of publication and will be published in the Sulfur in June 2005 Mineral Industry Surveys along with apparent

consumption. Imports of recovered sulfur for April 2005 were estimated to be 224,000 tons; exports were 94,000 tons. Imports of sulfuric acid for April 2005 were 250,000 tons; exports were 51,000 tons.

Significant adjustments have been made to the sulfur import data. Reports from the U.S. Census Bureau appear to underreport sulfur imports, especially material from Canada. The revised figures are based on Census information and data from personal communications with industry experts.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT SULFUR STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production			Shipments, all sources	Ending stocks <sup>3</sup>
	Petroleum <sup>2</sup>	Natural gas	Total		
2004:					
January-December	7,390	1,990	9,380	9,410	XX
January-May	2,990	827	3,810	3,840	XX
May	625	170	795	789	186
June	618	164	781	780	192
July	650	173	823	813	202
August	652	172	824	838	189
September	599	155	754	757	186
October	598	163	761	765	183
November	622	167	789	771	200
December	664	167	831	846	185
2005:					
January	571	169	740	740	179
February	547	156	703 <sup>r</sup>	696	188
March	585 <sup>r</sup>	169	754 <sup>r</sup>	755 <sup>r</sup>	184 <sup>r</sup>
April <sup>f</sup>	598	157	756	756	168
May <sup>p</sup>	609	164	773	760	178
Total	2,910	815	3,730	3,710	XX

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes a small quantity from coking operations.

<sup>3</sup>Subject to inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SULFUR<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Canada		Mexico		Total, all countries <sup>2</sup>	
	Quantity <sup>e</sup>	Value <sup>3</sup>	Quantity	Value <sup>3</sup>	Quantity <sup>e</sup>	Value <sup>3</sup>
2004:						
January-December	2,010	31,300	545	28,200	2,850	76,800
January-April	700	11,600	164	10,600	996	29,100
April	180	3,060	54	2,550	279	8,040
May	180	2,830	57	2,620	265	6,880
June	180	2,560	49	2,440	247	5,980
July	160	2,790	54	2,550	251	7,150
August	160	2,050	35	1,780	221	5,290
September	160	2,460	49	2,650	240	6,850
October	160	1,740	51	2,170	220	4,370
November	150	2,650	31	1,240	186	5,700
December	160	2,660	55	2,200	226	5,400
2005:						
January	150	2,070	31	1,070	224	4,730
February	130	2,130	50	1,930	230	6,080
March	140	2,320	40	1,640	180	4,050
April	140	2,530	47	1,840	224	5,830
Total	560	9,050	168	6,480	1,270	20,700

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>May include other countries not listed.

<sup>3</sup>Declared customs valuation.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau data as adjusted by U.S. Geological Survey and PentaSul North America Sulphur Service.

TABLE 3  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SULFURIC ACID<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Canada			Europe			Total, all countries <sup>2</sup>		
	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value <sup>3</sup>	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value <sup>3</sup>	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value <sup>3</sup>
2004:									
January-December	1,920	625	72,500	206	66	6,670	2,390	780	86,300
January-April	646	210	25,900	41	14	995	715	236	28,800
April	203	66	7,710	14	5	344	221	72	8,410
May	190	62	7,230	22	7	555	222	72	8,120
June	166	54	6,350	11	3	247	192	63	7,860
July	160	52	5,660	10	3	357	172	56	6,230
August	133	43	4,920	33	11	937	194	63	6,250
September	150	49	5,080	29	9	1,090	206	67	6,480
October	176	57	6,450	19	6	946	215	70	7,480
November	160	52	5,930	11	3	289	218	71	7,500
December	140	46	4,970	30	10	655	251	82	7,610
2005:									
January	173	56	5,990	30	10	840	248	81	9,490
February	174	57	6,190	(4)	(4)	18	213	70	7,820
March	183	60	7,080	32	10	759	254	83	8,590
April	191	63	7,770	10	3	629	250	82	9,660
Total	721	236	27,000	72	23	2,250	965	316	35,600

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>May include other countries not listed.

<sup>3</sup>Declared customs valuation.

<sup>4</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SULFUR AND SULFURIC ACID<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Sulfur		Sulfuric acid		
	Quantity	Value <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value <sup>2</sup>
2004:					
January-December	949	63,300	204	66	21,300
January-April	254	18,100	48	16	7,210
April	128	7,710	11	4	1,380
May	87	5,190	10	3	2,370
June	36	2,000	26	8	1,610
July	19	1,720	13	4	1,280
August	157	11,500	40	13	3,210
September	107	6,590	11	4	1,090
October	127	7,250	23	7	1,850
November	31	2,280	20	7	1,590
December	130	8,740	13	4	1,120
2005:					
January	22	1,740	13	4	1,590
February	72	5,040	28	9	2,230
March	41	6,270	31	10	2,270
April	94	6,010	51	17	3,280
Total	229	19,100	123	40	9,380

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Declared f.a.s. (free alongside ship) valuation.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
U.S. CONSUMPTION OF SULFUR<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Domestic sources <sup>2</sup>	Imports <sup>c</sup>	Consumption
2004:			
January-December	8,470	2,850	11,300
January-April	2,810	996	3,800
April	654	279	933
May	702	265	967
June	744	247	991
July	794	251	1,050
August	681	221	902
September	650	240	890
October	638	220	858
November	740	186	926
December	716	226	942
2005:			
January	718	224	942
February	624	230	854
March	715 <sup>r</sup>	180	895 <sup>r</sup>
April	666	224	890
Total	2,720	858	3,580

<sup>c</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Calculated as shipments minus exports.

TABLE 6  
RECOVERED SULFUR PRODUCED AND SHIPPED IN THE UNITED STATES,  
BY PAD (PETROLEUM ADMINISTRATION FOR DEFENSE) DISTRICT<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

District and source	May 2005 <sup>p</sup>		April 2005		January - May 2005 <sup>2</sup>		January - May 2004 <sup>2</sup>	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:								
Petroleum and coke	14	14	21 <sup>r</sup>	19	96	96	98	99
Natural gas	8	8	2	2	16	16	9	9
Total	22	22	22 <sup>r</sup>	21	112	112	107	108
PAD 2:								
Petroleum and coke	86	85	82	83 <sup>r</sup>	404	404	384 <sup>r</sup>	386 <sup>r</sup>
Natural gas	4	3	3	4	17	17	18 <sup>r</sup>	19 <sup>r</sup>
Total	90	89	86	86	421	421	402 <sup>r</sup>	404 <sup>r</sup>
PAD 3: <sup>3</sup>								
Petroleum and coke	393	399	387 <sup>r</sup>	389 <sup>r</sup>	1,850	1,840	1,940	1,950 <sup>r</sup>
Natural gas	42	42	41	42	221	215	224 <sup>r</sup>	226 <sup>r</sup>
Total	436	441	428 <sup>r</sup>	432 <sup>r</sup>	2,060	2,060	2,160	2,180
PAD 4 and 5: <sup>4</sup>								
Petroleum and coke	115	107	109 <sup>r</sup>	108 <sup>r</sup>	562	545	563 <sup>r</sup>	572 <sup>r</sup>
Natural gas	109	101	110 <sup>r</sup>	109 <sup>r</sup>	571	570	578 <sup>r</sup>	575 <sup>r</sup>
California	95	87	88 <sup>r</sup>	87 <sup>r</sup>	439	419	427 <sup>r</sup>	430 <sup>r</sup>
Total	225	208	219 <sup>r</sup>	217 <sup>r</sup>	1,130	1,120	1,140 <sup>r</sup>	1,150 <sup>r</sup>
Grand total	773	760	756 <sup>r</sup>	756 <sup>r</sup>	3,730	3,710	3,810 <sup>r</sup>	3,840 <sup>r</sup>

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions.

<sup>3</sup>Includes the U.S. Virgin Islands.

<sup>4</sup>Quantities produced and shipped in California included in petroleum and natural gas. California total shown for information purposes only.

TABLE 7  
COMPARATIVE SULFUR AND SULFURIC ACID STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Million metric tons per year [annualized basis]  
and dollars per metric ton for period shown)

	2005			2004
	May	April	Total	total
Production	9.10 <sup>p</sup>	9.20 <sup>r</sup>	9.01 <sup>r</sup>	9.38
Shipments	8.95 <sup>p</sup>	9.20 <sup>r</sup>	8.96 <sup>r</sup>	9.41
Exports of sulfur	NA	1.14	0.70	0.95
Imports of sulfur:				
Canada	NA	1.65 <sup>e</sup>	1.70 <sup>e</sup>	2.01
Mexico	NA	0.57	0.51	0.55
Total <sup>2</sup>	NA	2.73 <sup>e</sup>	2.61 <sup>e</sup>	2.85 <sup>e</sup>
Export of H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	NA	0.62	0.37	0.20
Import of H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> :				
Canada	NA	2.32	2.19	1.92
Europe	NA	0.12	0.22	0.21
Total <sup>2</sup>	NA	3.04	2.94	2.39
Consumption: <sup>3</sup>				
Domestic sources	NA	8.10	8.28	8.35
Imports	NA	2.73 <sup>e</sup>	2.61 <sup>e</sup>	2.85 <sup>e</sup>
Total	NA	10.83	10.89	11.21
Sulfur export values <sup>4</sup>	NA	\$64	\$83	\$67
Sulfur import values: <sup>4</sup>				
Canada	NA	\$18	\$16	\$16
Mexico	NA	\$39	\$39	\$52
Average	NA	\$26	\$24	\$27
H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> export values <sup>4</sup>	NA	\$64	\$76	\$105
H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> import values: <sup>4</sup>				
Canada	NA	\$41	\$37	\$38
Europe	NA	\$63	\$31	\$32
Average	NA	\$39	\$37	\$36

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes other countries not listed.

<sup>3</sup>Because May trade data were not available, May consumption was not determined.

<sup>4</sup>Average value per ton for most recent data available.